

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-64 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 are independent. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 18-22, 24-26, 35-39, 41, 46-50, 52-54, 63 and 64 are rejected. Claims 6, 10-17, 23, 27-34, 40, 42-45, 51 and 55-62 are objected to. By this Amendment, objected claims 6, 10, 15, 23, 27, 32, 40, 42, 45, 51, 55 and 60 have been rewritten in independent forms. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 18-22, 24-26, 35-39, 41, 46-50, 52-54 and 63-64 have been repeatedly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,133,941 to Ono ("Ono") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,721 to Donahue et al. ("Donahue") in further view of JP09098317A to Odagaki ("Odagaki").

Odagaki is cited as disclosing a camera system which stores previous camera positions to allow an easy way to return to previous angles of view without relying on operators's memory. The Examiner indicates that the camera of Odagaki is set to return to a previous position based upon the inputting of a control signal.

As Applicant explained in the Amendment filed on January 9, 2004, Ono discloses a camera control authority in which the clients 101a and 101b display the camera control authority status such as wait time before the clients can acquire the camera control authority. Donahue discloses monitoring the network to determine if the availability of the receiver has regained

after the network link is interrupted. When the receiver regains the availability, the sender resumes the terminated data transmission to the receiver via the network.

However, Applicant believes that adding Odagaki still does not disclose the invention as a whole as featured in the pending claims because the present invention includes a specific situation as set forth below.

One of the aspects of the image distribution system of the present invention as featured in independent claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 is directed to a specific case where the image transmission apparatus issues the authorization to the image reception apparatus to control the image sensing apparatus and communication between the image reception apparatus and the image transmission apparatus is undesirably terminated while the image reception apparatus holds the authorization. The present invention is further characterized in that when the communication is restored within a predetermined period, conditions of the image sensing apparatus are restored to the conditions at the time of the undesired termination, and the image reception apparatus is allowed to continuously control the image sensing apparatus under the restored conditions.

The invention enables a remote user connected to the image transmission apparatus regains control of the image sensing apparatus easily with previously set conditions when the user reconnects to the image transmission apparatus within a predetermined time period after an undesired termination of the network.

Applicant believes that none of the cited references (i.e., Ono, Donahue and Odagaki), either taken alone or in combination, shows or suggests the invention as a whole as described above including the specific situation.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Objections

Claims 6, 10-17, 23, 27-34, 40, 42-45, 51 and 55-62 have been objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

Among the objected to claims, claims 6, 10, 15, 23, 27, 32, 40, 42, 45, 51, 55 and 60 have been rewritten in independent forms. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 6, 10, 15, 23, 27, 32, 40, 42, 45, 51, 55 and 60 are in condition for allowance. For the rest of the objected to claims (i.e., claims 11-14, 17, 28-31, 33, 34, 43, 44, 56-59, 61 and 62), Applicant respectfully submits that, as the independent claims from which the objected to claims depend are hereby placed in condition for allowance, these claims as pending are thereby also placed in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

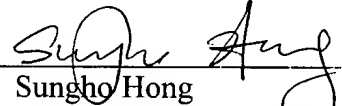
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4554). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 23, 2004

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